

C-110 in front of us, it is certainly an opportune time for an Hon. Member from northern Ontario to be able to speak on behalf of his constituents.

When we are looking at a Bill, a Bill which will increase to \$62 billion, the amount of money which the EDC can borrow, I must say to you, Mr. Speaker, that that is a concern. Like most Hon. Members here in the House, today and on Friday I received Canada Works Program approval for local employment assistance. On the one hand, the Government is willing to borrow \$62 billion and on the other hand it is giving to ridings such as Timiskaming only \$229,000 in order to create jobs. Unemployment in northern Ontario, where I come from, is now at 13 per cent. It is the same for my colleagues from the west and my colleagues from the east. How can we tell our people that this Government is going to borrow \$62 billion and yet is doing very little for the unemployment situation in this country?

I would like to continue on, Mr. Speaker, and refer again to my riding, the riding of Timiskaming in northern Ontario. Once again we can see that this Government, through the EDC, has financed Inco developments in Indonesia and Guatemala, jeopardizing jobs not only in Sudbury and northern Ontario in general but also in the central part of Canada, the industrial base. I say to you, Sir, that this Government has shown it has no thought for Canadians.

● (1710)

The doubling of the authorized capital of the EDC means it can borrow up to \$20 billion. The unemployed people of Canada would certainly enjoy having some of this money put into job creation in this country rather than seeing it leave Canada. In the words of Professor André Raynauld of the University of Montreal, the EDC is:

—rapidly becoming a bureaucratic monster, borrowing and lending money, making unsound loans to foreign countries, extending its empire and involving Canada in transactions and negotiations that are both costly and inefficient.

I would like to refer to a few of those transactions at this time, Mr. Speaker. The EDC has financed forest development projects in Mexico, Poland and Peru, which will compete with the Canadian forest industry. Does everyone here realize the problems we are faced with in the forest industry of Canada? Why is this money not put into our own industry? The EDC helped finance the construction of a monument to the Algerian revolution. Once again, what about Canadians in the forest and mining industry who have been laid off and whose unemployment insurance has run out? Would this money not have been better spent on helping Canadians who are in trouble?

At a time when Government borrowing costs were in the range of 16 per cent, EDC arranged a 9.7 per cent loan for \$563 million U.S., or about \$700 million Canadian to assist Bombardier in the sale of subway cars to New York city. Forty per cent of the jobs created by this deal are in the United States. Can you imagine, a loan at 9.7 per cent? What about the individuals across this country who have lost their homes, businesses and farms? Would they not have loved to have had money at 9.7 per cent interest? They would still be in

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business today. I can go on and on, Mr. Speaker. Last fall the Auditor General noted that Parliament is becoming further isolated from an increasing portion of Government activities. The growing practice of using Crown-owned corporations to conduct a widening range of Government activities has so strained the capability of the existing accountability framework that Parliament may not be able to exercise its fundamental responsibility for overseeing receipts and expenditures of public funds. Not only are the constituents in my riding and across Canada concerned, but the Auditor General has expressed his concern in his report.

I might say to the Hon. Members on the other side that the concern we have for Canadians is not a laughing matter, Sir.

The private sector role is too weak. The mandate of EDC is to help Canadian exporters. Most Canadian exporters are private sector concerns, while the EDC board is top heavy with bureaucrats. The present Act calls for 12 directors, six of whom are to be public servants. In a letter of May 30 to the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Evans) the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs wrote that the Government has long held the view that the key ministries which have a direct interest in EDC activities should be members of the board, that is, Mr. Speaker, External Affairs, Finance, the Bank of Canada, CIDA, IT&C, and DREE. The Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn) on June 9, in a letter to the Minister, outlined the Progressive Conservative view on this. He said:

There seems to be, in our view, many Members from the Public Service on the Board. We would concede, perhaps, that there should be someone from Industry, Trade and Commerce; there should be, perhaps, someone from External Affairs; there should be, perhaps, someone from the Department of Finance. Other than that, in our view, the rest of the members of the Board of Directors should be from the private sector.

That is what we believe in, Mr. Speaker. The private sector is the people who will make this country grow. It would certainly do for this Government to take a second look at the concerns in this country.

**Mr. Bud Bradley (Haldimand-Norfolk):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity given to me today to take part in this debate. In initiating my remarks I would like to point out how pleased we are on this side and how thankful we are for the work done by the Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn) on this Bill. He has done a tremendous job in marshalling this Bill through the House and in ensuring that the responsibility is taken by the Government.

I come from a predominantly rural riding, Mr. Speaker, and we are very concerned about the operation of the Economic Development Corporation and about this Bill C-110. We have concerns in my riding about the fish industry and what the EDC has done in the past and what it will do in the future. That is a major concern. We are concerned about agriculture, dairy products, tobacco, grain, and even peanuts.

I have a very large industry in my area, Mr. Speaker, the largest steel plant in Canada, Stelco. The last speaker pointed out very ably what the EDC is not doing for organizations such as that. We ask why EDC needs to be expanded and why